

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented): A method of producing a semi-hard magnetic material, wherein the magnetic coercive force H_c of the semi-hard magnetic material is greater than or equal to 800 A/m, which semi-hard magnetic material can maintain a magnetized state and can also be demagnetized, comprising the steps of: preparing a multilayer body in which layers "A" each consist essentially of Fe having magnetism and layers "B" each containing a non-magnetic Cu group metal as the main component thereof are stacked on each other; heating the multilayer body so that the layers "B" are segmented substantially sheet-like layers formed by a dividing heat treatment; and applying a cold plastic working to the multilayer body.

2. (Previously Amended) A method of producing the magnetic material according to claim 1, wherein the dividing heat treatment is performed at a holding temperature of 685 to 1085°C for a holding period of 10 to 180 minutes.

3. (Previously Amended) A method of producing the magnetic material according to any one of claims 1 or 2, further comprising the step of performing, after the step of said cold

plastic working, a steepness-affording heat treatment so that squareness ratio and magnetization steepness are enhanced by heating the multilayer body.

4. (Previously Amended) A method of producing the magnetic material according to claim 3, wherein the steepness-affording heat treatment for enhancing the squareness ratio and the magnetization steepness by heating is performed at a holding temperature of 400 to 700°C for a holding period of 2 to 120 minutes.

5. (Previously Amended) A method of producing the magnetic material according to claim 1, further comprising the step of performing cold working so that the multilayer body becomes a thin sheet having a thickness of 0.03 to 1.0 mm.

Claims 6-10 (canceled)

11. (previously presented): A method of producing a semi-hard magnetic material , wherein the magnetic coercive force H_c of the semi-hard magnetic material is greater than or equal to 800 A/m, which semi-hard magnetic material can maintain a magnetized state and can also be demagnetized, comprising the steps of: preparing a multilayer body in which layers "A" each consist of Fe having magnetism and layers "B" each containing a non-magnetic Cu group

metal as the main component thereof are stacked on each other; heating the multilayer body so that each of the layers "B" is partially divided by a dividing heat treatment; and applying a cold plastic working to the multilayer body.

12. (previously presented): A method of producing the magnetic material according to claim 11, wherein the dividing heat treatment is performed at a holding temperature of 685 to 1085°C for a holding period of 10 to 180 minutes.

13. (previously presented): A method of producing the magnetic material according to any one of claims 11 or 12, further comprising the step of performing, after the step of said cold plastic working, a steepness-affording heat treatment so that squareness ratio and magnetization steepness are enhanced by heating the multilayer body.

14. (previously presented): A method of producing the magnetic material according to claim 13, wherein the steepness-affording heat treatment for enhancing the squareness ratio and the magnetization steepness by heating is performed at a holding temperature of 400 to 700°C for a holding period of 2 to 120 minutes.

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15. (previously presented): A method of producing the magnetic material according to claim 11, further comprising the step of performing cold working so that the multilayer body becomes a thin sheet having a thickness of 0.03 to 1.0 mm.

Claims 16-18 (canceled).